Remarks

Pursuant to the Restriction Requirement mailed December 12, 2001, applicant hereby elects the Group I claims 1-3, 6-8, and 13-19. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to be directed to the nucleic acid sequences specific to Group I and thus are no longer linked to the Group II claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current election and amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**."

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims:

Claims 4-5, 9-12, and 20-25 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An oligonucleotide primer having up to 40 bases and comprising the sequence SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:15; **or** SEQ ID NO:16**[; SEQ ID NO:27; SEQ ID NO:28; SEQ ID NO:29; SEQ ID NO:32; SEQ ID NO:33; OR SEQ ID NO:34]**.

13. (Once Amended) A method of detecting bacteria in a liquid or liquified sample by polymerase chain reaction, comprising:

providing a liquid or liquified sample;

recovering bacteria from the liquid or liquified sample;

lysing the bacteria to provide a DNA sample;

selecting a **[pair of]** target **[genes]** **gene** and selecting a target DNA sequence in **[each]** **the** target gene;

incubating the DNA sample under amplification conditions with a DNA polymerase and a primer pair for amplifying **[each]** **the** target DNA sequence; and

detecting the presence of amplified DNA as an indication of the presence of bacteria carrying the selected target DNA **[sequences]** **sequence**, wherein the **[pair of]** target **[genes comprise]** **gene is** the *lamB* gene **[to detect]** **of** *Escherichia coli* **[and the transposase gene Tn1546 to detect *Enterococcus faecalis* and/or *Enterococcus faecium*]**.